

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1           1.     A document processing apparatus comprising:  
2           a display;  
3           a plurality of user-accessible input points configured to generate input point  
4 signals in response to being accessed by a user;  
5           an electronic readable memory device comprising descriptions of selected  
6 ones of the plurality of user-accessible input points in a plurality of languages; and  
7           a processor configured to associate an input point signal from an input point  
8 with a corresponding description of the input point in a preselected one of the  
9 plurality of languages and to display the description on the display.

1           2.     The apparatus of claim 1, and further wherein the display is  
2 configured to display the description in a dot matrix text format.

1           3.     The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein:  
2           the electronic readable memory device is characterized by memory address  
3 locations;  
4           descriptions of the user-accessible input points are associated with selected  
5 memory address locations;  
6           the memory address locations of the preselected language are stored in a  
7 separate description memory address location; and  
8           the processor is configured to associate the descriptions of the input points  
9 by accessing the description memory address location.

1           4.     The apparatus of claim 3, and further comprising an access  
2 connection in communication with the processor, the access connection configured  
3 to receive signals from an external access device to thereby store the memory  
4 address locations of the preselected language in the separate description memory  
5 address location, and wherein the external access device does not comprise part  
6 of the document processing apparatus, and further wherein the memory address  
7 locations of the preselected language can only be stored in the separate description  
8 memory address location by the external access device.

1           5.     The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising an electronic timer,  
2 and wherein:

3                 in response to being accessed by a user, an input point generates the input  
4 point signal for a duration of time equal to the time the input point is accessed;

5                 the electronic timer is configured to measure the duration of time the input  
6 point is accessed;

7                 and, the processor is further configured to associate the input point signal  
8 with the corresponding description of the input point in the preselected language  
9 when a preselected duration of time is measured by the timer.

1           6.     The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein one of the selected ones of the  
2 user input points comprises a user assist input point, and wherein the  
3 corresponding description of the user assist input point in the preselected language  
4 is a message informing the user how to access descriptions of the remaining  
5 selected ones of the plurality of user-accessible input points.

1           7.     The apparatus of claim 6, and further wherein the processor is  
2 configured such that, when the user assist input point and one of the remaining  
3 selected ones of the input points are simultaneously accessed by a user, the  
4 description in the preselected language which is displayed by the processor is the  
5 description of the one of the remaining selected ones of the input points.

1           8.     The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising an electronic timer,  
2     and wherein the electronic timer is configured to measure the duration of time the  
3     description of the input point is displayed, and the processor is further configured  
4     to stop the display of the description when a preselected duration of time is  
5     measured by the timer.

1           9.     The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising an access  
2     connection in communication with the processor, the access connection configured  
3     to receive signals from an external access device to thereby determine the  
4     preselected language.

1           10.    The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the selected ones of the user  
2     input points are defined by a first group of user input points and a second group of  
3     user input points, and wherein the first group of user input points comprises a first  
4     user assist input point, the second group of user input points comprises a second  
5     user assist input point, and wherein the corresponding description of the first user  
6     assist input point in the preselected language is a message particular to the first  
7     group of user input points, and the corresponding description of the second user  
8     assist input point in the preselected language is a message particular to the second  
9     group of user input points.

1           11.    A method for displaying local language descriptions of a plurality of  
2     user accessible input points of a document processing apparatus, comprising:  
3           providing, on a machine readable medium and in the local language, a  
4     plurality of descriptions of user input points corresponding to the plurality of user  
5     accessible input points; and  
6           in response to a user accessing an input point, accessing the local language  
7     description of the user input point which corresponds to the user input point, and  
8     displaying to the user the local language description of the user input point.

1           12. The method of claim 11, and further comprising providing a plurality  
2 of descriptions of the user input points in a plurality of languages; and  
3           selecting the local language descriptions of the user input points as  
4 descriptions to be accessed in response to a user accessing an input point.

1           13. The method of claim 11, and wherein the local language description  
2 of the user input point is only displayed after the user has accessed the user input  
3 point for a predetermined period of time.

1           14. The method of claim 11, and further comprising ceasing to display to  
2 the user the local language description of the user input point after a predetermined  
3 period of time.

1           15. The method of claim 11, and further comprising ceasing to display to  
2 the user the local language description of the user input point when the user  
3 accesses another user input point.

1           16. The method of claim 11, and further comprising:  
2           designating a selected one of the user input points as a user assist input  
3 point; and  
4           wherein the description of the user assist input point comprises instructions  
5 to the user for accessing descriptions of the remaining user input points.

1           17. The method of claim 16, and wherein, when a user input point other  
2 than the user assist input point is accessed by the user, the local language  
3 description of the user input point is displayed only after the user has accessed the  
4 user input point for a predetermined period of time, and when a user simultaneously  
5 accesses the user assist input point and a second user input point, the description  
6 displayed is the local language description of the second user input point.

1        18.    A document processing apparatus comprising:  
2        a display;  
3        a plurality of user-accessible input points configured to generate input point  
4 signals in response to being accessed by a user;  
5        an electronic readable memory device comprising descriptions of selected  
6 ones of the plurality of user-accessible input points in a local language; and  
7        a processor configured to associate an input point signal from an input point  
8 with a corresponding description of the input point in the local language and to  
9 display the description on the display.

1        19.    The apparatus of claim 18, and wherein each of the selected ones of  
2 the user input points are identified to the user by a corresponding marking in  
3 proximity to the associated user input point, and wherein the markings are not local  
4 language descriptions of the user input points.

1        20.    The apparatus of claim 18, and wherein one of the selected ones of  
2 the user input points comprises a user assist input point, and wherein the  
3 corresponding description of the user assist input point in the local language is a  
4 message informing the user how to access local language descriptions of the  
5 remaining selected ones of the plurality of user-accessible input points.